



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando  
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**MOTHER PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING OXYCODONE TO MINOR SON,  
WHO DIED FROM THE DRUG**

Tampa - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that Linda Kay Courtright (age 36, of North Port) pleaded guilty today to distributing oxycodone, the use of which resulted in the death of Nicholas Block (age 15). Courtright faces a minimum mandatory term of 20 years in federal prison and up to life.

According to the plea agreement, the North Port Police Department (NPPD) and emergency services crews responded to a hotel room at the Budget Inn Motel (14000 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port) occupied by Linda Courtright, her husband, Billy Jack Courtright, Linda Courtright's 15-year-old son, Nicholas Block, and the Courtrights' three other children, ages 10, 9, and 7. NPPD detectives found Nicholas dead on one of the hotel beds. After an autopsy, the medical examiner determined that Nicholas's cause of death was due to intoxication from oxycodone. An NPPD investigation determined that, the night before Nicholas Block died, Billy Jack Courtright and Linda Courtright had provided Nicholas Block with the oxycodone that he had used and that had resulted in his death.

Billy Jack Courtright has a change of plea hearing scheduled for April 28, 2010 at 10:30 AM in before United States Magistrate Judge Anthony E. Porcelli.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the North Port Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew H. Perry and Susan Rothstein-Youakim.